

CORPORATE PARENTING SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 6

Thursday 19th March 2015

Witness Guide for Members

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

Themes and Questions

Philip Segurola, Acting Director, Specialist Children's Services, Kent County Council

- Please introduce yourself and outline the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please discuss the issues – if any - around KCC's corporate parenting responsibility in relation to housing. What can be done – if anything – to secure a more rigorous assessment process to assure the quality of supported lodging accommodation for care leavers across the County?
- What are the issues – if any - around KCC's corporate parenting responsibility in relation to advice on employment and training and the use of apprenticeships for care leavers?
- What can be done to speed up the delegation process for foster carers to authorise looked after children to participate more easily in activities such as school trips or staying with friends?
- In your view, to what extent is it feasible to amalgamate some of the meetings involving professionals and children and young people in care?
- In your opinion, what would be the benefits and challenges of arranging for a group of local senior practitioners to act as links to KCC Members for information and updates on local looked after children?
- In what ways, if any, can the stability of social workers allocated to children and young people in care in Kent be improved?

- In your view, what are the benefits and challenges of recruiting more social work assistants in the County?
- What consideration has been given to adopt a social work model such as that implemented in the London Borough of Hackney?
- Please discuss the advantages and challenges of offering additional mental health therapy to children and young people in care in more informal settings, such as Dandelion Time.
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?